

IN THE SPECIFICATION

[0001] This invention relates to a prosthetic intervertebral disc nucleus. More particularly it relates to an artificial disc nucleus made of a hydrogel material that exhibits a stable swelling pressure characteristic after implantation, *i.e.*, the water content of the material and the size of the implant made from the material remains stable *in vivo* and also the time required to bring the material to a stable state prior to implantation can be reduced.